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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 37th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 113: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (continued)

1. Mr. HALLIDAY (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management) said that he welcomed the opportunity to reply to the questions asked by the representative of Portugal, regarding draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.16, which had been adopted at the preceding meeting. He appreciated the support shown by the Committee for the Secretary-General's human resources management strategy, which had taken concrete form in terms of budgetary resources to establish a planning capacity within the Office of Human Resources Management. With the limited resources that had been agreed upon, the Office would do its utmost to implement the performance appraisal system and all other measures envisaged in the resolution.

2. Regarding measures taken by the Secretary-General to ensure that the release of staff for staff representation purposes was done in accordance with the arrangements reported in document A/C.5/47/59, measures were being taken to inform the United Nations Staff Union of the concerns of the Committee. The Staff Union was being advised in writing that, pending review of the corrigendum to that report and a further report at the resumed forty-ninth session, full-time release for staff representation activities would be limited to those staff members whose release had been reported to the General Assembly in 1992, namely, the President of the Staff Committee and the two General Service staff working with him.

3. Regarding the recruitment of successful candidates from competitive examinations, commitments were made to participating Member States regarding the number of posts to be filled through the examination process. The examinations yielded a varying number of successful candidates. To date, the numerical commitments to Member States had been met, although in some cases not all of the successful candidates had been placed. None the less, every effort was made to recruit additional successful candidates, bearing in mind the need to recruit candidates from unrepresented or underrepresented Member States and the skills required by the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 117: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.11)

4. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.11 on the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II). The text of the resolution indicated the status of outstanding contributions and, in paragraph 4, endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee. The draft resolution would have the General Assembly decide to appropriate to the Special Account the amount of $8,986,700 gross for the maintenance of the Verification Mission for the period from 1 June to 30 September 1994, and the amount of $4,112,400 gross for the period from 1 October to 8 December 1994. The amount of $7,732,400 gross would be appropriated in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/229 for the period from 9 December 1994 to 8 February 1995. Beyond that date, the

Secretary-General would be authorized to enter into commitments at a rate not to exceed $3.5 million gross per month for the three-month period from 9 February to 8 May 1995. She commended the resolution to the Committee for adoption by consensus.

5. Mr. ELZIMAITY (Egypt) said that his delegation was happy to accept the text of the draft resolution. His delegation was concerned, however, over reports of a clause in the rental contract for the mission headquarters in Luanda that would forbid any Angolan nationals from entering the premises. That matter should be clarified before the draft resolution was adopted. His delegation formally requested a report from the Secretariat at the resumed session confirming whether such a clause existed, and if so, what measures to rectify the situation, as well as disciplinary measures, had been taken.

6. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal) said that the information reported by the representative of Egypt came as a complete surprise to her. If such a provision existed, it was totally inadmissible.

7. Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) said that his delegation supported the consensus on the text of the resolution, but shared the concerns of Egypt regarding the possibility of an inadmissible practice.

8. Mr. SERME (Burkina Faso) said that his delegation, too, supported the draft resolution. If the report proved accurate, however, it was particularly distressing that such a situation, which belonged to an earlier era, should still exist on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

9. Mr. AMARI (Tunisia) joined other delegations in requesting a clarification from the Secretariat of the situation to which the representative of Egypt had referred.

10. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) said that her delegation also supported the text of the draft resolution, but would welcome clarification of the matter.

11. Mr. OULD EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) said that the situation to which the Committee's attention had been drawn was very serious and unacceptable. His delegation, however, would have preferred it had consultations been held among African delegations before the matter was raised in a Committee meeting. The Angolan delegation itself might also have been consulted.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would defer consideration of the draft resolution until the matter raised by the representative of Egypt had been clarified.

AGENDA ITEM 129: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.29)

13. Mr. SHARP (Australia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.29 on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL). Under the draft resolution, the General Assembly would appropriate to the Special Account for UNOMIL a total of $17,548,300 gross for the operation of the Mission from 22 April to 22 October 1994 and, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among

Member States the amount of $4,303,260 gross for the period from 23 October 1994 to 13 January 1995. It would also authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the period beyond 13 January 1995 at a rate not to exceed $1,593,800 gross per month.

14. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.29 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 125: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.10)

15. Mr. BLUKIS (Latvia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.10 on the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus. He was pleased that, through the efforts of the participants, especially the interested parties, consensus had been achieved during the informal consultations.

16. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.10 was adopted.

17. Mr. GÜVEN (Turkey), speaking in explanation of position, said that, although reluctantly, his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution in order to expedite the work of the Committee. However, with regard to paragraphs 7 and 11 in particular, its participation in the consensus should not be construed as recognition of the "Government of Cyprus" as the legitimate government of the island.

18. Mr. STAVRINOS (Cyprus) said, with regard to the statement of the representative of Turkey, that the United Nations and the entire international community, with the exception of Turkey, recognized the Government of Cyprus as the sole legitimate government. His delegation was disappointed that Turkey, instead of complying with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, continued to disregard them.

19. Mr. GÜVEN (Turkey), speaking on a point of order, inquired whether the representative of Cyprus was speaking in explanation of position or in exercise of the right of reply.

20. Mr. STAVRINOS (Cyprus) said that he was speaking in exercise of the right of reply.

21. The CHAIRMAN said, that being the case, that time would be allowed at the end of the meeting for delegations to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

AGENDA ITEM 124: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN MOZAMBIQUE (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.18

22. Mr. SCOTTI (France) said that his delegation was not in a position to agree to the draft decision at the current stage; it requested that consideration of the draft decision be deferred to the resumed session. The financial control bodies in France would not be able to understand how public monies could be committed when the proper procedures had not been followed. His delegation did not feel that the urgency invoked by the Secretariat could justify departures

from normal practice. One month before the dismantling of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique, the Committee still did not have the report requested from the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 48/240 B, or a report from the Advisory Committee recommending that the amounts that had been committed should be apportioned.

23. Ms. HOLLAND (United Kingdom) asked whether the French delegation was simply unable to accept the apportionment, or whether it could not accept any decision at all. At the very least, the Committee might decide to give the Secretariat the increased commitment authority it required.

24. The CHAIRMAN suggested that consideration of the item should be deferred so that informal consultations could be held.

25. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 128: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.12

26. Mr. SCOTTI (France) said that for the reasons already given, his delegation was not in a position to approve the draft decision at the current stage and asked that consideration of the draft decision be deferred until the resumed session. The commitment authorities of $1,347,000 and $9,509,300 had already been approved by the Advisory Committee, which meant that the Mission would be able to function. However, the Advisory Committee had not yet made a recommendation on the question of the apportionment. Although it had been argued that the funds were needed because of the increased size of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), his delegation understood that the personnel actually in Haiti numbered only 84; that was still far short of the 500 people for which financing had been provided.

27. Mr. GRANT (United States of America) said that his delegation was concerned about the substantive impact of delaying action on the request by the Secretary-General. UNMIH was still much smaller than it was intended to be and, for the sake of the successful preparation and start-up of the Mission, serious consideration should be given to the Secretary-General's request.

28. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should suspend its consideration of the item pending informal consultations.

29. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 119: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.21

30. Ms. HOLLAND (United Kingdom) said that her delegation had no difficulty with the draft decision but sought clarification about the additional amount of $2.2 million referred to in paragraph (d). Her delegation was concerned that

that figure had not come from the Secretariat and needed confirmation that it was an appropriate amount.

31. Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) asked whether observers from the Organization of African Unity were covered by the resources.

32. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that his delegation favoured making immediately available to the Identification Commission the resources it needed to recruit the staff which would enable it to speed up its activities as requested by the Security Council and proposed by the Secretary-General. It understood the difficulties of some delegations and therefore agreed that the commitment authority could be limited to the month of January 1995 (and the month of December 1994), on the understanding that the Committee would revert to the question in February 1995 on the basis of updated reports by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee.

33. In his report to the Security Council (S/1994/1420), the Secretary-General proposed an increase in the staff of the Identification Commission so as to accelerate the identification and registration of voters. His delegation noted that the proposed expansion remained within the limits of the staff included in the settlement plan approved by the Security Council and accepted by the parties. The continuation of the activities of the Mission required a new decision by the General Assembly. That decision should not, however, be contingent on action by the Security Council on the report before it. His delegation felt that, since the Secretary-General had proposed an increase in staff in January 1995, the General Assembly, at the current session, could have authorized him to enter into commitments for a period of five months so as to prevent further delays in the implementation of the settlement plan. Updated reports from the Security Council and the Advisory Committee could then be taken up in June 1995 and it would be possible to have detailed proposals on the full deployment of the Mission since that was the date on which the Secretary-General hoped to begin the transitional period.

34. His delegation hoped that if the recommendation in the draft decision proved insufficient, the Secretariat would provide all the necessary additional resources through other procedures, including the mechanism for dealing with unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. His delegation sought confirmation from the Controller on that point, as well as assurances that recruitment times would be reduced so that the staff needed by the Mission in January 1995 would be on board. If that was not possible, his delegation wished to know on what date the staff could be deployed.

35. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that since the Secretary-General's report on the financing of MINURSO (A/49/559) had been issued, there had been some progress, especially following the Secretary-General's visit to the mission area. Recently, the Secretary-General had submitted a report (S/1994/1420) to the Security Council informing it that given the large number of applications from prospective voters, a major reinforcement of personnel and other resources was needed in order to complete the identification and registration process in a reasonable time. The Secretary-General had also proposed that the number of identification centres should be increased and that additional staff and other resources should be made available to them. Those proposals had been submitted

to the Security Council and, if approved, would require about $18 million for a seven-and-a-half-month period, or $2.2 million a month. Under paragraph (d) of the draft decision, the commitments would be subject to the decision of the Security Council on the deployment of staff and to review by the Advisory Committee.

36. Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.21 would provide for a level of $3.3 million a month for the period from 1 December 1994 to 31 January 1995, so that the total for the two-month period would be $6.4 million (para. (c)). As soon as a decision was taken by the Security Council, the Advisory Committee would be requested to carry out a review, so that there would be no difficulty in increasing the level of funding in January; a report would be provided to the Advisory Committee in February.

37. Mr. ROSEN (Director of the Peace-keeping Financing Division), replying to the representative of Algeria, said that there was budgetary provision for 12 observers from the Organization of African Unity.

38. Mr. GOUMENNY (Ukraine) said that the draft decision was a result of informal consultations; he hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

39. Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.21 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 132: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

(b) RELOCATION OF BELARUS AND UKRAINE TO THE GROUP OF MEMBER STATES SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 3 (c) OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 43/232 (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.22

40. Mr. BOIN (France) said that his delegation shared the concerns about the special situation of the two Member States in question but was concerned about deferring consideration of the matter a second time even though it was being considered as an "exceptional" measure and involved a departure from Article 19 of the Charter. His delegation had therefore approached the delegations of Belarus and Ukraine and had secured their agreement on a new paragraph (b) which would read:

> "To call upon Ukraine and Belarus to prepare during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly proposals for the treatment of their arrears concerning the financing of peace-keeping operations".

His delegation hoped that the Committee would keep the question under close review.

41. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) said that her delegation understood the reservations of some delegations about the treatment being given to Belarus and Ukraine but supported the request for reclassification.

42. Mr. DAMICO (Brazil) said that his delegation could support the text, as amended, on the understanding that Belarus and Ukraine would not only prepare but also present their proposals for consideration by the General Assembly.

43. Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.22, as orally amended, was adopted.

44. Mr. KAWAI (Japan) said that his delegation would have liked to participate in the consultations on the draft decision because it related to a matter which was of great concern to many delegations. It felt that the provisional arrangement could not be repeatedly renewed and hoped that the case of Belarus and Ukraine would be quickly resolved.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.